





Family Assistance Letter # 204
OFFICE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE, OHIO COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD
October 12, 2022

TO: Directors, Public Children Services Agencies

FROM: Wanda J. Ellis, Deputy Director 
Office of Family Assistance

Kimberly A. Dent, Executive Director 
Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

SUBJECT: **Engaging Fathers and Children Services**

Dear Public Children Services Agency Staff,

The 2016 Child and Family Services Review identified inconsistencies in engaging non-custodial parent(s), specifically fathers. In 2016, a workgroup was formed to improve the practice of engaging fathers statewide. As a result of the workgroup, The Best Practice Guide for Engaging Fathers: A Toolkit for Children Services Staff (JFS 01444) was developed to inform and enhance case work practice. This toolkit can be found at <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/num/JFS01444/pdf/>

In Spring 2022, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood created a committee to continue the Engaging Fathers workgroup efforts to bolster fatherhood practice and revise the toolkit.

To breakdown the work, subcommittees were created. The subcommittee on policy and procedure would like to gather more information about current practice within the counties and gauge the frequency of use of the toolkit to inform revisions.

To inform next steps a brief survey has been developed. This short survey is expected to take less than five minutes of your valuable time! We respectfully request PCSAs have staff who engage in assessment, case planning, and family search and engagement activities complete the survey. [Engaging Fathers Readiness Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com)

Please direct any questions you may have to Rebekah.Murray@jfs.ohio.gov or Renee.Lupi2@ohio.gov

As always, we thank you for your partnership.

Yours In Fatherhood,

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OhioJFS-Office of Family Assistance
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cc:

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ODJFS Deputy Directors
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